Dear Friends of ANDRUS,

The Cherry Blossoms have bloomed on our campus and that means Spring has arrived! It is my hope that we embrace the turn of the season with a sense of accomplishment and hope for the future. I am proud of what we have achieved, and am excited by the vital work we have planned moving forward. In the start of 2017 we began our Strategic Plan implementation process. I am so impressed by the team captains and contributors who are leading the efforts on making progress on each of our Strategic Plan goals. Unfortunately, this Spring also brought the passing of long-serving friend of ANDRUS John Cady. The tribute to Mr. Cady in this newsletter highlights both his commitment to our organization, and his truly incredible life and accomplishments.

Spring brought with it some lovely ANDRUS traditions, along with some new and exciting events that we were thrilled to introduce. For Earth Day, a group of 20 children and staff helped to clean up the Yonkers Aqueduct Trail and learn about environmental conservation. Our Partner Appreciation Breakfast for volunteers and corporations was a wonderful collaboration between our partners and the Orchard School Achievers, who have shown remarkable consistency in their behavior and deep passion for community service. We also hosted over 100 Andrus family members from The Surdna Foundation to our campus for their centennial celebration on Sunday May 7. I hope you enjoy the updates on the Surdna visit, our Pets at Work for Sanctuary (P.A.W.S.) program, and Parent University, our family engagement program.

As we look ahead, our annual Golf Fore Kids event is on Monday, June 5 at Siwanoy Country Club. The event will be even more exciting this year with our largest variety of auction items to date and many staff joining us to help raise money for ANDRUS.

We are all looking forward to this busy season and putting our best foot forward for the children and families we serve. Wishing you all a warm and happy Spring!

Gratefully,

Bryan

VISION & MISSION

ANDRUS nurtures hope in children by providing care that empowers them to succeed and by promoting innovation and standards of excellence in the care of children in our community and beyond.

ANDRUS nurtures social and emotional well-being in children, families, and communities by delivering a broad range of vital services and by providing research, training, and innovative program models that promote the standard of excellence for professional performance in and beyond our service community.
Memorable Moments with ANDRUS’ First Therapy Dog: Teddy Romer

ANDRUS’ Pets at Work for Sanctuary program has been tremendously popular over the last few months. Children around the ANDRUS campus have been eager to embrace and care for Teddy Romer. He gets lots of love through children who are eager to play with him, groom him, brush his teeth, and get water for him. Teddy has begun officially programming with our early elementary classes. Students from four classrooms were introduced to Teddy Romer and were able to follow instructions and remain safe despite the excitement Teddy Romer brought with him! Students had the opportunity to practice commands and feed Teddy Romer his favorite treat - Cheerios.

When he is not busy playing fetch and tag with students by the Griffith playground, Teddy Romer is being used as a motivator for children to work on their reading, math, and presentation skills. Through that method of incentivising working with Teddy Romer, children who are struggling are often distracted from their stress and return to program! There have been too many occasions to count where a child who was out of program walked back to class without any further issue due to their cheerful escort - Teddy Romer. Thanks to these experiences, Teddy Romer has been able to drastically increase his ability to interrupt crisis-escalation.

The early elementary students of Griffith Hall eagerly await their Tuesday mornings when they get to spend some time with Teddy Romer. This week, they practiced commands such as sit, shake, belly, up, come, and wait. It was great practice for exercising patience, consistency, and persistence, both for the children and for Teddy Romer.

Teddy-Romer has recently joined individual and group therapy sessions to help children express their emotions while having the comfort of a dog nearby. Some therapy groups have even focused on dog behavior, patience, and empathy, which can so easily be translated to the children’s emotions that it makes for a very useful tool.

As always, Teddy Romer remains loving, kind, energetic, compassionate, and empathic!

ANDRUS is looking forward to welcoming its next therapy dog over the summer, when he’ll have some time to get settled and ready for the new school year.

Thank you very much for supporting the P.A.W.S. program and allowing us to continue this program that has been transformative for the children in our care. On behalf of the children, staff, and families of ANDRUS, thank you once again for your support!
ANDRUS’ new Parent Engagement Program making strides

The goal of the Parent University is to fortify parent-child interactions, strengthen parenting competency, reduce barriers to reunification, improve the transitions a child makes when going home to visit and returning to campus, to identify mental health needs of parents, and address family needs for case management and wrap around services. The Parent University constructs scaffolding for healing, growth, and change within the family unit.

Successes from this quarter:

Home visiting: Parent University reached 15 families through the home visiting program. We conducted 53 visits and made 20 clinical phone contacts.

Resource Portal: Through resource portal, we connected parents to vital resources such as food, medical care, transportation, and mental health services. Our skilled home visitor liaison worked with campus staff and clinicians to identify children and families in crisis and efficiently guided treatment for 10 families.

On Campus Engagement: Our on-campus engagement continues to be a success. On-Campus engagement activities have had an attendance rate of about 80%. These events have been successful at promoting bonding between parents and their children. On-campus family engagement is also building social capital by providing parents the opportunity to connect with other parents in similar situations and pooling resources.

Parent Peer Support Groups: Parent Support Groups were formed as a result of parental participation in on-campus engagement activities and Sanctuary to Go Workshops.

Sanctuary to Go Workshops: This quarter there was a series of 7 workshops held at the Yonkers Public Library where workshop facilitators talked with parents about handling losses, stress, emotions, creating safety and envisioning a positive future. This workshop received tremendous feedback. Participants who completed the workshops’ evaluations surveys said:

“I found the workshop materials to be informative and helpful. I want more about this topic. I learned something new that I didn’t know before. This information helped me to become a better parent.”

Parents have also reported that they loved “learning from others, their suggestions, and their experiences.” Parents said the workshops helped them to feel informed, equipped and empowered to be better parents. Our Sanctuary to Go workshops have a 100% satisfaction rating.
ANDRUS welcomes Surdna for centennial celebration!

ANDRUS hosted 110 guests from the Surdna Foundation for a special visit to its Yonkers campus in celebration of Surdna’s Centennial Weekend. 100 years after the founding of the Surdna foundation, family members and constituents were welcomed back to the home where John Andrus established an orphanage in 1928 in memory of his beloved wife, Julia Dyckman Andrus. The Surdna Foundation, founded in 1917 for a range of philanthropic purposes, seeks to foster sustainable communities in the United States – communities guided by principles of social justice and distinguished by healthy environments, strong local economies, and thriving cultures. For over five generations, the Foundation has been governed largely by descendants of John Andrus and has developed a tradition of innovative service for those in need of help or opportunity.

This was a unique moment for two organizations who share a direct connection to the Andrus family legacy to come together in celebration. The visit highlighted the progress that has been made in key programmatic areas at ANDRUS such as horticulture, therapeutic animals, sensory and body regulation, the Realizing Artistic Potential (RAP) music program, and improvements to the residences for the children who live on ANDRUS’ 110-acre Yonkers campus. In addition to touring these elements, ANDRUS staff members provided information on the Andrus family legacy that is so intertwined with the history of the North Broadway property. Included was an installation of staged memorabilia from the Andrus family archives which highlighted the amazing commitment to service that has been a cornerstone of the family’s legacy.

The centennial celebration included remarks from a number of key spokespeople affiliated with The Surdna Foundation or related organizations. The speakers included: Betsy Biddle, Executive Director of Andrus on Hudson, McCain McMurray, Board Chair of Andrus on Hudson, Jack McLaughlin, ANDRUS Board Chair, Bryan Murphy, ANDRUS President & CEO, Phil Henderson, President of the Surdna Foundation, Peter Benedict II, Board Chair of the Surdna Foundation, Leticia Peguero, Executive Director of the Andrus Family Fund, and members of the Andrus Family Fund’s Board Experience Triads (BETS) program.
We hope you can join us on Monday, June 5 at our annual Golf Fore Kids outing!
Registration and sponsorship opportunities are available on our website at www.ANDRUS1928.org.

EVENT SCHEDULE
11:00 a.m.
Registration and Driving Range Open
11:30 a.m.
Buffet Brunch and Welcome
12:30 p.m.
Shotgun Start
5:30 p.m.
Cocktails, Dinner, Raffles and Auction
Special guest Auctioneer Kevin Cook

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ONLINE REGISTRATION
available on our website at Andrus1928.org
For other information, please contact Judy Wood at JWood@jdcm.org